

From: Steinbachs, John
Sent: Sat, 29 Jan 2022 23:26:10 +0000
To: Sloly, Peter; Bell, Steve; Ferguson, Patricia K; Dunker, Blair; Maloney, Kevin
Subject: FW: Note from GM - draft
Importance: High

Unclassified

From: Lanthier-Seymour, Andrea <Andrea.Lanthier@ottawa.ca>
Sent: Saturday, January 29, 2022 6:14 PM
To: Steinbachs, John <SteinbachsJ@ottawapolice.ca>; Lavigne, Carole <LavigneC@ottawapolice.ca>; Kavanagh, Julie A <KavanaghJ@ottawapolice.ca>
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Subject: [EXTERNAL] Note from GM - draft
Importance: High

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Hi,
FYI We are planning to get this out before 7 pm to members of council. Pls let me know ASAP if there are any concerns.

Due to the volume of vehicles and demonstrators in Ottawa today, entry points to downtown were effectively closed or impassable by mid-afternoon. There will be limited social media updates issued on downtown road closures as the core is now gridlocked and is expected to remain like this for now. Police and City officials are focusing on keeping emergency lanes clear and on protecting the safety of residents and visitors.

There are thousands of vehicles in the downtown core (a combination of tractor-trailers, commercial vehicles, personal vehicles, farming equipment and ATVs among others). In addition, there are an estimated 6000 people on Parliament Hill with another 6000-7000 people congregated along Wellington Ave. There are other smaller congregations in Confederation Park, Rideau Centre and the surrounding area. At present, the overall crowd dynamic is generally co-operative and non-violent. There have been isolated incidents of individuals inciting the crowd, but the crowd remains peaceful overall. They are beginning to disburse but we expect the gathering to continue into the evening.

All formal speeches have been postponed until tomorrow at 11 am due to the delay in the arrival of the convoy from Western Canada today. Due to the complexity of the gridlock of parked vehicles downtown, it would be reasonable to suggest that vacating the downtown core will take a considerable amount of time and will very likely impact City Operations into Monday.

Due to congestion, we are continuing to recommend that people avoid the area if possible.

OC Transpo routes have been detoured around the city core. Updates on specific routes and how they are affected can be found on OC Transpo's website.

As expected, traffic congestion is affecting areas outside the core, including various communities around downtown and on Highway 417. The 417 is now flowing well now that all convoys have arrived in the City. It is anticipated that Sunday's traffic impacts will be similar to Saturday's.

The frostbite warning issued on January 28, 2022 continues until further notice. Due to the significant traffic impacts in the downtown core, the Salvation Army outreach van will mostly be supporting priority populations via foot patrol, noting that transportation of clients to City shelters continues but with significant delays.

Other issues that have occurred that are related to the demonstration include:

- Roaming convoys driving through the city impacting traffic in surrounding areas and sounding their horns
- Demonstration supporters crowding on highway overpasses, posing a risk to their own safety
- Pedestrians on the highway, leading to the temporary closure of 417 EB after Pinecrest earlier today. The Highway is now reopened.
- The closure of the Rideau Centre due to large crowds, noting that while the stores in the Rideau Centre are closed, many people from the demonstration are still seeking refuge from the cold there.

Communications pertaining to the traffic situation and pedestrian safety have been issued. The situation continues to be fast moving and requires rapid adjustments by both Ottawa Police and City services. The situation remains fluid.

Andrea Lanthier-Seymour (she/her/elle)

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